

AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L R E P O R T S

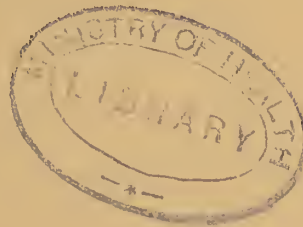
of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

1952.



PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS:-

D. McGOWAN	M.B.,CH.B.,D.P.H. Medical Officer of Health.
J. H. ELLIS	Chief Sanitary Inspector. Certificate of R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B. Certificate of R.S.I. for Inspectors of Meat and other Foods.
W. HIGHAM	District Sanitary Inspector. Certificate of R.S.A. (Scotland) Certificate of R.S.A. (Scotland) for Inspectors of Meat and other Foods.
D. GRANTLEY SMITH	District Sanitary Inspector. Certificate of R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.
J. S. STRONG	Rodent Officer.

AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1952.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr Chairman, Mrs Greenhill and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District and the work of the Public Health Department for the year 1952.

In the first place I would like to thank Dr. R.S.Wathes for his help when I took over the appointment of Medical Officer of Health from him in July, 1952 and I hope that I will continue the good relations which he maintained between the Public Health Department and other Officers and Members of the Council.

The new arrangements whereby the M.O.H. of the Borough of Weston-s-Mare is also M.O.H. for Axbridge Rural District should have advantages as the two Authorities have many public health problems in common and the joint appointment should increase the co-operation which already exists between them.

Generally speaking the health of the Community was good during the year and there were no major outbreaks of infectious disease. There has been steady progress in the environmental services, particularly in housing but much remains to be done in this field, and I hope my Report and that of Mr Ellis, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, will give you a good idea of some of the outstanding problems still facing the Council. I am indebted to the Surveyor's Department for the statistics given in the Report on Water Supplies and Sewage Disposal.

Finally, I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Committees with which the Health Department is associated, for their support and the Officers and Staff of other Departments for their assistance and co-operation.

I remain,
Your obedient Servant

D. McGOWAN.

October, 1953.

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

General Statistics.

Area of District.	90,551 acres.
Population: 1931 Census	22,076
" 1951 " (Provisional)	26,523
" Registrar General's Estimate for Mid.1952.	26,470
Rateable Value.	£194,536
Number of Inhabited houses.	7,648

Extracts from Vital Statistics for Year 1952.

LIVE BIRTHS:

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	167	160	327
Illegitimate.	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>9</u>
	<u>173</u>	<u>163</u>	<u>336</u>

BIRTH RATE: per 1,000 population = 12.7

CORRECTED BIRTH RATE: (Comparability Factor 1.10) = 14.0

STILL BIRTHS:

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	2	5	7
Illegitimate.	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>

STILL BIRTH RATE: (per 1,000 total births) = 26.78

DEATHS:

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
	150	163	313

CRUDE DEATH RATE: = 11.8 per 1,000 population

CORRECTED DEATH RATE: (Comparability Factor 0.82) = 9.7

MATERNAL DEATHS:- 1

INFANT MORTALITY: (Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age).

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	6	3	9
Illegitimate.	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>9</u>

INFANT MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 live births = 26.8

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

The Registrar General gives the corrected number of live births in the District as 336 (173 boys and 163 girls), this being 28 births less than in 1951. Of these births 9 were illegitimate (6 boys and 3 girls).

The crude birth rate for 1952 is 12.7 and when the comparability figure (1.1) is applied, the corrected birth rate is 14.0 per 1,000 of the total population compared with 18.9 in 1951. The birth rate for England & Wales in 1952 was 15.3 .

The following table shows the trend of the birth rate following the high peak at the end of the last war.

Birth Rates.

<u>Year:-</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>
England & Wales.	19.1	20.5	17.9	16.7	15.8	15.5	15.3
Axbridge Rural District.	17.9	18.1	17.5	16.9	14.0	13.7	12.7

STILL BIRTHS.

The registered number of stillbirths in 1952 was 7 (2 males & 5 females) of which 2 were illegitimate, this giving a still birth rate of 20.3 per 1,000 total births or 0.26 per 1,000 of total population. The comparable still birth rate for England & Wales was 22.6 per 1,000 total births or 1.35 per 1,000 of total population.

DEATHS.

After correction for transferable deaths the net total assigned to the District by the Registrar General was 313 (150 males and 163 females). This is 55 less than in 1951 and gives a crude death rate of 11.8 . When adjusted for age and sex distribution to make it comparable with other districts, the total death rate was 9.7 per 1,000 of total population compared with 11.3 for England & Wales as a whole.

The number of deaths in the four quarters of the year were:-

	<u>1952</u>	<u>1951</u>
First Quarter	80	132
Second Quarter	73	105
Third Quarter	70	80
Fourth Quarter	90	51

The following table shows the causes of death in 1952:-

<u>Causes of Death.</u>	<u>1952.</u>		
	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	3	4	7
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	-	1
Syphilitic diseases	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	1
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and Parasitic diseases	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	1	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	8	-	8
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	7	7
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasm	17	20	37
Leukaemia, aleukameia	1	-	1
Diabetes	-	-	-
Vascular Lesions of nervous system	15	27	42
Coronary disease, angina pectoris	19	15	34
Hypertension with heart disease	3	3	6
Other heart diseases	32	40	72
Other circulatory diseases	6	6	12
Influenza	-	2	2
Pneumonia	8	9	17
Bronchitis	4	6	10
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	4	7
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	4	4
Hyperplasia of prostate	4	-	4
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	1	1
Congenital malformations	2	3	5
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	4	12
Motor vehicle accidents	4	2	6
All other accidents	3	3	6
Suicide	3	1	4
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
<u>All Causes - Total.</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>163</u>	<u>313</u>

SEX AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS, 1952.
(The figures in brackets are those of 1951).

Ages at Death in Years:-

		<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Under	1	6 (7)	3 (5)	9 (12)
1	to 9	2 (1)	3 (1)	5 (2)
10	to 24	2 (2)	2 (1)	4 (3)
25	to 44	6 (12)	7 (6)	13 (18)
45	to 64	47 (54)	26 (26)	73 (82)
65	to 69	22 (24)	12 (25)	34 (49)
<u>Total under 70 years</u>		85(100)	53(66)	138(166)
70	to 74	13 (27)	18 (23)	31 (50)
75	to 79	26 (24)	38 (31)	64 (55)
80	to 84	15 (20)	26 (28)	41 (48)
85	to 89	8 (9)	17 (21)	25 (30)
90	to 94	3 (2)	8 (14)	11 (16)
95	to 99	- (1)	3 (2)	3 (3)
<u>Total over 70 years</u>		65(83)	110(119)	175(202)
		<u>150(183)</u>	<u>163(185)</u>	<u>313(368)</u>

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There was one death during the year from maternal causes.

INFANT MORTALITY.

After correction for transferable deaths, 9 children (6 boys & 3 girls) under the age of 1 year, died in 1952. This gives an infant mortality rate of 26.8 per 1,000 live births. Of the 9 deaths, 7 occurred in infants under 4 weeks old. The following table gives details of the causes of death and the age at death, and it can be seen that 7 of the 9 deaths were due to causes present at birth, and therefore might be considered non-preventable.

Cause of death	Under 1 Day	1-7 Days	1-4 weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total under 1 Year.
Prematurity	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Birth Injury	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Congenital Malformations	-	2	-	2	-	1	-	-	3
Pneumonia	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	2
<u>Total.</u>	2	5	-	7	-	2	-	-	9

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Generally speaking, the water supplies in the District were satisfactory, but the deficiencies noted in the 1951 report in the Brean & Berrow area continued. The scheme for the provision of a link main at Berrow could not be started owing to the unavoidable delay in the delivery of pipes, but some alleviation was brought about by installing an auxiliary pump to boost the water pressure during the peak weeks of the summer holiday period. To avoid increased consumption of water in the Brean district, no new licences for caravan sites were issued during the year. During the past few years, the Brean & Berrow area has become very popular with holiday makers, and there is a great demand for further expansion of caravan and holiday camp sites, but before this can be allowed it is essential that water supplies and sewage disposal in the area should be adequate.

Every parish in the District has a piped water supply, and 7,124 houses, representing a population of 25,140 are supplied directly from the public mains. 24 houses representing 50 people obtain their water supplies from standpipes. 443 houses rely on wells for water supply. During the year a piped supply was given to 13 houses in place of a well supply.

The following extensions of the public water supplies were carried out during 1952.

Extension of main at Upper Langford	-	1,234	yds	-	3"
" " " " Locking ...	-	550	"	-	3"
		1,057	"	-	1"

Future proposals for extensions or improvements include the following:-

	<u>Approx. Cost.</u>
Water Supply - Wrington Hill, Wrington.	£3,250
Extension of main - Kewstoke.	£2,761
Water Supply - Charterhouse.	£20,267
Link Main - Brean & Berrow.	£5,272
Extension of Main - Hillside, Axbridge.	£200
Extension of main at Cheddar to obtain further bulk supply from Bristol Waterworks Co.	£1,012

The Public Health Department collects samples of water from the mains at points throughout the District and submits them monthly for examination at the Public Health Laboratory.

The results of the sampling of water supplies for bacteriological analysis are given in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Dwelling houses.</u>	<u>Dwelling-houses receiving a supply from Public Water Mains.</u>	<u>Population supplied from Public Water Mains. Direct to houses.</u>	<u>Stand- pipe.</u>
Axbridge	292	290	1,158	8
Badgworth	114	113	370	2
Banwell	615	596	1,929	-
Berrow	118	116	358	-
Blagdon	339	331	1,142	-
Bleadon	213	196	616	-
Brean	96	94	299	-
Brent Knoll	244	231	767	-
Burnham Without	93	93	293	-
Burrington	140	108	373	-
Butcombe	63	54	171	-
Chapel Allerton	80	78	280	-
Cheddar	807	791	2,698	4
Churchill	365	311	1,051	2
Compton Bishop	127	107	450	-
Congresbury	445	388	1,419	-
East Brent	223	223	760	-
Hutton	181	157	519	9
* Kewstoke	229	196	585	-
* Locking	87	73	186	-
Loxton	59	49	161	-
Lympsham	157	157	541	6
Mark	264	263	950	5
Puxton	49	46	188	-
Shipham	196	186	580	2
Weare	136	134	425	-
Wedmore	718	636	2,378	9
Wick-st-Lawrence	51	47	192	-
Winscombe	686	680	2,320	3
Wrington	461	404	1,524	-

* Weston-s-Mare Borough Council Water Supply Area.
 * Excluding R.A.F. Station personnel.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The following parishes in the District have main drainage and efficient sewage disposal systems - Banwell, Blagdon, Cheddar, Butcombe & Winscombe.

The following extensions, new works or improvements were carried out during the year.

	<u>Cost.</u>
Axbridge & Compton Bishop Sewerage & Sewage Disposal Scheme (Part).	£ 40,873..
Banwell (Part)	£ 6,950

Future proposals include:-

	<u>Approx. Cost.</u>
Congresbury & District Sewerage & Sewage Disposal Scheme (now being revised).	£ 70,800
Extension of irrigation area - Wedmore Sewage Works.	£ 400
Locking (in early stages of preparation)	Not known.

HOUSING.

Taking into consideration the population of the Rural District compared with other areas, progress in the erection of new houses during the year has been very satisfactory although there is still a tremendous amount of work to be done before we can say that the post-war housing problem has been solved. There are still too many families sharing a house with other people, with the resulting nervous tension and quarrelling which is almost inevitable in such circumstances, and there are still too many rural slums in our villages - old cottages where dampness, lack of light and ventilation and primitive sanitation are all too common.

The following tables show the progress of housing during the year.

	<u>Houses erected in 1952.</u>		<u>Houses in course of erection at end of year 1952.</u>		<u>Conversion to flats & dwellings.</u>	
	<u>Perm.</u>	<u>Temp.</u>	<u>Perm.</u>	<u>Temp.</u>	<u>Perm.</u>	<u>Temp.</u>
Local Authority.	114	-	108	-	1	-
Private Enterprise.	31	-	27	-	12	-
<u>Totals.</u>	<u>145</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>135</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>-</u>

	<u>December 1952.</u>	<u>December 1951.</u>
No. of houses owned by the Council.	1,087	972
No. of houses requisitioned by the Council.	38	42
No. of hutments administered by the Council.	43	55
No. of applicants for Council Houses.	541	611
No. of families rehoused during the year.	152	94

The number of post-war houses erected by the Local Authority up to the end of 1952 is 568 and the programme for 1953 provided for the erection of 105 houses.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Fortunately, there were no serious outbreaks of infectious disease in the District during 1952, the only disease which produced a fair number of notifications being measles. Since 1947 poliomyelitis has become much more prevalent in this country and its occurrence in any area always produces natural concern and fear among parents. Only two cases were notified during the year, and although both occurred about the same time, they were in widely separated parts of the district and there was no connection between them. It is interesting to note that they occurred at the same time as a small outbreak in Weston-s-Mare.

One case of enteric infection occurred in the District during the summer months. The patient was on holiday from Wales and was living at a farm huest-house, when she developed the disease. It is almost certain that the patient contracted the disease before she came on holiday to Somerset as there was an extensive outbreak of paratyphoid fever in South Wales at the time.

The following table shows the notifications of infectious diseases in the District during the year.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Measles	145	2	-
Scarlet Fever	23	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Membranous Group	-	-	-
Enteric & Paratyphoid Fever	1	1	-
Puerperal Fever	1	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	61	-	1
(Acute Primary Pneumonia			
(Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	14	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	2	-
Acute Encephalitis	-	-	-
Typhus	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-
Small Pox	-	-	-
Cholera	-	-	-
Erysipelas	4	-	-
Malaria	-	-	-
Plague	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-
Other diseases notifiable			
locally, e.g. Chicken Pox:-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

27 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 2 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were registered during the year. There were 7 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis. The number of cases on the register at the end of 1952 was.-

<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Total.</u>	
<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
57	41	5	12	62	53

Tuberculosis is still the most deadly of the infectious diseases although there are signs that its control may not be too far distant. One of the most effective methods of control is by finding the infected person in an early stage of the disease and the development of mass radiography surveys since the war has been most successful in this respect. Unfortunately, although the majority of towns in the West Country have regular annual visits by a mass Radiography Unit, it is not yet possible to bring these units to all the country areas. It is hoped that a regular survey of Axbridge Rural District from a suitable centre in the District will eventually be arranged as the Mass Radiography Service expands.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Again there were no cases of diphtheria notified during 1952, the last to occur in the District being in 1946. Immunisation against diphtheria by private doctors and in Infant Welfare Clinics continued throughout the year and 209 children under 5 years of age received primary immunisation. 19 children in the age group 5 - 14 years received primary immunisation and 317 children under the age of 15 years received reinforcing doses.

A total of 3,505 children under the age of 15 years have completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to the end of 1952.

It cannot be emphasised too often that the low incidence of diphtheria in the country is due to the extensive campaign for immunisation which has been carried out since 1940. We cannot afford to be complacent and allow the level of immunisation in the child population to fall. The only way to ensure that diphtheria does not return as an epidemic disease is to have every child effectively immunised.

HOSPITALS, CLINICS ETC.

Hospital facilities for general medical and surgical cases are adequate in that Hospitals in the Bristol Group, Weston-s-Mare, and Burnham-on-Sea admit patients from the Rural District. Since 1949 all cases of infectious disease have been admitted to Ham Green Hospital, Bristol, and Shute Shelf Hospital, which was originally the Infectious Diseases Hospital, is now fully engaged in the treatment of tuberculous cases. St. Michaels Home, Axbridge, and Compton Bishop Children's Hospital also deal with tuberculous cases whilst Ilex Lodge Hospital in Axbridge is meeting a great need in providing for elderly and infirm patients.

Maternity cases who require admission to hospital either on medical or social grounds are admitted to various maternity hospitals in Bristol, Clevedon, Weston-s-Mare and Bridgwater, but this is not altogether satisfactory owing to the distance between the patient's home and the hospital in many instances and I am sure that there is a need for a small maternity hospital at a suitable centre in the Rural District.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at Axbridge, Cheddar, Winscombe, Banwell, Hutton, Kewstoke and Wrington.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

1952.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Greenhill and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the Year 1952.

HOUSING.

Whilst the rate at which the reconditioning of sub-standard property is proceeding can give no room for complacency, it is a cause of satisfaction that the general standard of reconditioning has never been higher. At present, however, most of the properties reconditioned are becoming owner-occupied, as are so many other vacated rented houses. Carried to its logical conclusion, this present trend will, if nothing happens to check it, result in the only properties available for renting being those owned by the Local Authority. Whether or not this is a desirable end is not a matter for comment here. It is sufficient to say that if this trend is to be halted, an equitable amendment of the Rent Restriction Acts, fair to both landlord and tenant, is needed. It is not suggested that a general all-round increase of rents would meet the case, as a fair rent for a particular property is not necessarily directly related to the present rent. For example, a cottage unfit for habitation may be dear even at 5/- a week. On the other hand, houses of a better standard than the average Council House are being rented in this District for as little as 10/- per week.

A re-assessment of all rents, conditional on a proper standard of fitness of the related property being attained and maintained, is an ideal which might prove difficult in its practical application. It appears, however, that, unless some solution to this complicated problem is found, privately owned property for renting will gradually become a thing of the past.

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.

The position at the end of the year was as follows:-

Estimated number of dwelling-houses to be surveyed (i.e. all those of £16 rateable value and under excluding private dwelling-houses erected since 1930 and Council Houses).	4,055	
Number of properties surveyed (total to 31st December, 1951).	3,405	84%
Number of properties found to be satisfactory in all respects. (Category 1)	380	11.1%
Number of properties found to have minor defects. (Category 2)	473	13.9%
Number of properties requiring repair or structural alteration. (Category 3)	2,195	64.4%

Number of properties unfit for habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable cost.

(Category 5) 357 10.5%

Since the commencement of the survey in 1946 a total of 51 surveyed houses has been made fit as the result of informal or formal action.

Category 2	-	7
"	3	- 18
"	5	- 26
		<hr/>
		51
		<hr/>

OVERCROWDING.

On the 31st December, 1952 there were 11 cases of statutory overcrowding on the register.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Due mainly to the licensing "standstill" imposed by the District Council in the Brean and Berrow Area, because of the excessive demand on the public water supply, the total number of camping sites licensed during the year showed only the small increase of 1 over the 1951 figure.

There was, however, a substantial increase during the year in the number of moveable dwellings used for living purposes. The number of caravans so used in December 1952 was 115, compared with the December 1951 figure of 72. The majority of these "residential" campers are living in the District through necessity rather than from choice. Their work lies in neighbouring towns, where they have been unable to find caravan accommodation. Several camping sites in the District are, therefore, mainly dormitories for people working outside the District. This trend is of particular interest to the Housing Committee in view of the fact that a number of these people have made application to this Council for housing accommodation.

No. of camping sites licensed during the year	60
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Total number of moveable dwellings permitted on these sites	1,406
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FOOD PREMISES.

The number of routine inspections of food shops and catering establishments carried out during the year is given in the Summary at the end of the Report. It is rarely that matters are found which need to be brought to the attention of the District Council.

Particular attention is being paid at inspections to the proper maintenance of the hand-washing facilities which have now been provided on these premises.

ICE CREAM.

The conditions under which ice-cream is manufactured and sold in the District continue to be satisfactory and call for no special comment.

Number of premises registered for the manufacture of ice-cream	5 (Hot mix 2)
	(Cold mix 3)

Number of premises registered for the sale of ice-cream	112
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Summary of results of ice-cream samples taken.

	<u>Grades</u>				<u>Total</u>
	<u>1.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>3.</u>	<u>4.</u>	
Ice-cream manufactured within the District.	14	-	-	-	14
Ice-cream manufactured outside the District.	79	11	10	11	111
	93	11	10	11	125

The comparatively high percentage of samples of ice-cream manufactured outside the District falling into Grades 3 and 4 is due mainly to the intensive sampling of the product of one manufacturer. The co-operation of the officers of the Local Authority in whose area the plant is situated was enlisted in tracing the source of the trouble.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The following is a summary of the results of the bacteriological examination of the monthly water samples taken from the public supplies. All these supplies are chlorinated, with the exception of the Burrington supply.

Probable No. of Coliform
Bacilli MacConkey 2 days
37°C.

	<u>0 per 100 ml.</u>	<u>0 per 100 ml.</u>	<u>13 per 100 ml.</u>
Cheddar & Axbridge	12 samples		
South Mendip (Cross)	12 samples		
South Mendip (Dunyeatt)	10 samples	1 sample	1 sample
Winscombe	12 samples		
North Mendip	12 samples		
Burrington (Not chlorinated)	11 samples	1 sample	
Twin Brook Adit	11 samples	1 sample	
Blagdon	12 samples		1 sample
Kewstoke	12 samples		
<u>Totals:</u>	<u>104 samples</u>	<u>3 samples</u>	<u>2 samples</u>

A sample of water from each of the above supplies was submitted for chemical analysis during the year. All nine samples were reported upon by the analyst as being free from plumbosolvency or other harmful contamination.

Samples were also taken of the untreated water from each of the sources of supply within the District.

Six samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination from four private premises. The samples of water from two of these premises proved to be unsatisfactory and the supplies were replaced by a supply from the public main. The supplies to the other two premises were reported upon as satisfactory.

CESSPOOL CLEANSING.

Towards the end of the year it became apparent that a second cesspool cleansing vehicle was needed. A new vehicle was obtained and it came into service in December. Control of the older tanker passed to the Housing Committee as that vehicle will be engaged

mainly on Council Housing Estate work.

Total number of cesspool and settlement
tanks cleansed during the year 509

DRAINAGE.

It has been mentioned in previous annual reports that the provision of sewerage systems for as much of the District as it is practicable to sewer, is the major Public Health task facing the District Council. This need becomes more urgent every year. Twenty years ago it appeared that the standard for rural sanitation outside the heavily built-up areas had reached something approaching finality. A system had been evolved by the experts for the conditions then prevailing. The recognised sanitary accommodation was to be the fly-proof bucket closet, the contents of which were to be buried in the garden. Refuse water, which in those days consisted of the comparatively small amount of water from the kitchen sink, was to be disposed of on the surface of the garden. Although these methods may appear now to us to be rather crude, they were a sanitary way of disposing of these waste matters.

The experts had, however, not reckoned with the emergence of a desire by rural dwellers to enjoy standards of sanitation comparable with those provided in towns.

Today the installation of water closets, baths and hot water systems in rural homes is proceeding apace. The problem of dealing with the resultant increase in the amount of foul water, in those large areas of the District where there are no sewers and where the sub-soil irrigation drainage of septic tanks effluents is poor, is a serious one. Occupiers so often, as soon as difficulty arises, cause the septic tank effluent to discharge to the nearest ditch. Detection of these connections is often difficult and the abatement of the inevitable nuisances involves a considerable amount of work.

It is not too much to say that, although a very considerable improvement has taken place in the standard of sanitary facilities in rural houses in the District during the past twenty years, the overall position relative to the disposal of foul matters has not correspondingly improved and has in many respects worsened.

This state of affairs can only be dealt with by the sewerage of as much of the District, and in the shortest possible time, as economic circumstances and technical considerations permit.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

There has been the inevitable further increase in the amount of refuse collected during the year. It is obvious that the three vehicles and nine men engaged will soon be insufficient to maintain the fortnightly collection.

For a time it may be possible to avoid any increase in the number of vehicles and men by making use of the standby vehicle and the cesspool tanker team. The relief which can be afforded in this way is obviously limited.

The disposal of refuse still falls short of a good standard of controlled tipping. The main difficulty lies in securing a regular flow of covering soil to the tip. The practical solution of this problem is simple but is relatively expensive. The present position can be regarded only as a compromise between the ideal and the dictates of economy.

The most disappointing feature of the year has been the collapse in the demand for waste paper. Although it was not expected that the high prices of 1951 would be maintained, it was not anticipated that waste paper would become unsaleable.

From becoming a valuable asset, waste paper has become a liability which adds to the problems at the tip face.

Estimated total amount of refuse collected during the year 4,355 tons.

Total amount of salvage material collected and disposed of during the year T. Cwt. Qr.

(a) Paper and Cardboard	127.	1.	3.
(b) Rags	3.	6.	2.
(c) Bones		18.	0.

The sale of materials salvaged realised £1,438.11.0d.

RODENT CONTROL.

The following is a copy of the annual return submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, which gives details of rodent control work carried out in the District during the year ending 31st December 1952.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949. REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1952.

Name of Local Authority: AXBRIDGE R.D.C. County: SOMERSET.

	Type of Property				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri-cultural	All other (including Business & Industrial)	
1. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District.	19	6470	950	520	7959
11. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1952 as a result (a) of notification or (b) otherwise.	(a) -	116	12	20	148
	(b) 19	1120	148	121	1408
111. Number of properties (under II) found to be seriously infested by rats.	Major -	31	27	11	69
	Minor 3	230	52	6	291
IV. Number of properties (under II) found to be seriously infested by mice.	-	12	2	3	17
V. Number of infested properties (under III & IV) treated by the Local Authority.	3	256	10	16	285

VI. Number of notices served under Section 4:-	-	-	-	-	-
(1) Treatment	-	-	-	-	-
(2) Structural Works (i.e. Proofing)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

Type of Property.

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri-cultural	All other (including Business & Industrial)	Total
VII. Number of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority following issue of notice under Section 4.	-	-	-	-	-
VIII. Legal Proceedings.	-	-	-	-	-
IX Number of "block" control schemes carried out	11				

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The following table gives particulars of the work carried out during the year.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions of health:-

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Written notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	9	9	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	102	60	1
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' premises).	21	5	1
	132	74	2

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found.	
	Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-

(a) Insufficient	1	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	1 (BAC Elborough)
	3	3

FOOD INSPECTION.

Particulars of foods condemned during the year are as follows:-

Meat	333 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Cakes	3 lbs.
Cooked Meat	168 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	Cheese	4 "
Pickles	6 jars.	Cocoa	3 tins
Macaroni	3 pkts.	Coffee	6 tins
Semolina	1 pkt.		

Note: (Bone taint was the principal cause of unfitness of the meat).

Canned Goods.

Condensed Milk	38 cans	Jams	24 cans
Fish	54 "	Soups	116 "
Meat, various	125 "	Vegetables	115 "
Fruit	200 "	Fruit Juice	1 "
Spaghetti & Macaroni	11 "		

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS.

Total number of inspections made (including re-inspections)	3,453
Total number of houses and premises inspected	1,882
Number of inspection of	
Food Shops and catering establishments	283
Camping Sites and Moveable Dwellings	524
Factories	74
Shops	147
Ice-cream premises	63
Petrol installations	121
Number of samples taken:-	
Milk	132
Ice-cream	136
Water	125
Rag flock and other filling materials	8
Complaints investigated:	193
Written notices and letters sent	1,077
Rooms, classrooms etc. disinfected	32
Nuisances from the keeping of animals abated	6
Nuisances from the accumulation of manure abated	4
Drain tests of old drainage systems	50

May I thank the Chairman and Members of the Council, the Medical Officer of Health, the Clerk and other Officers of the Council for the help which has been so readily given during the year, and record my appreciation of the excellent work done by the members of the staff and of the employees of the Public Health Department.

I remain,
Your obedient Servant,
J. H. ELLIS.
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

